

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub A1*

1. A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal centerline and a lateral centerline orthogonal thereto, and having longitudinal side margins and transverse ends, said sanitary napkin comprising: a liquid pervious topsheet; a liquid impervious backsheet; and an absorbent core intermediate said topsheet and said backsheet, said core having two major faces, a first major face oriented toward said topsheet and a second major face oriented toward said backsheet, said first major face having a line of weakness therein, said line of weakness being longitudinally concave towards said lateral centerline, wherein said sanitary napkin deforms to a convex upward configuration while in use.
2. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1 wherein said line of weakness is continuous.
3. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1 wherein said line of weakness comprises discrete sites.
4. A sanitary napkin according to Claims 2 or 3 wherein said line of weakness comprises compressed regions in said core.
5. A sanitary napkin according to Claims 2 or 3 wherein said line of weakness comprises cuts or slits in said core.
6. A sanitary napkin according to Claims 2, 3, or 4 wherein said line of weakness joins said core and said topsheet.
7. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 6 wherein said sanitary napkin is free of adhesive joining said core and said topsheet.
8. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1 further comprising second and third lines of weakness in said core on the opposite sides of said longitudinal centerline and being laterally concave away from said longitudinal centerline.
9. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8 further comprising V-shaped lines of weakness radiating outwardly from said longitudinal centerline as the end of the sanitary napkin is approached.
10. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 6 wherein said core further comprises third and fourth lines of weakness on the ~~opposite~~ sides of said longitudinal centerline and being laterally concave away from said longitudinal centerline.

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✓ 11. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 10 wherein said lines of weakness are symmetric about said lateral and said longitudinal centerlines.

✓ 12. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 11 further comprising flaps for attachment to <sup>the</sup> undergarment of a wearer, wherein said flaps are joined to said backsheet inboard of said longitudinal side margins of said sanitary napkin.

✓ 13. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 12 further comprising two lines of weakness symmetrically opposite about said longitudinal centerline and oriented concave outward therefrom, said further lines of weakness having a vertex juxtaposed with said lateral centerline.

✓ 14. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13 whereby said sanitary napkin deforms to a W-shaped cross section in response to lateral pressure from the thighs of the wearer.

✓ 15. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 14 wherein said backsheet has an inwardly oriented surface oriented towards said core and an outwardly oriented surface opposed thereto and which contacts the <sup>undergarment</sup> of the wearer, said sanitary napkin further comprising strips of adhesive for attachment of the sanitary napkin to the undergarment of the wearer, said strips of adhesive radiating outwardly from the longitudinal centerline, towards an end of the sanitary napkin.

✓ 16. A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal centerline and a lateral centerline orthogonal thereto, and having longitudinal side margins and transverse ends, said sanitary napkin comprising: a liquid pervious topsheet; a liquid impervious backsheet; and an absorbent core intermediate said topsheet and said backsheet, wherein said absorbent core and said topsheet are joined together at discrete sites forming a line of weakness symmetric about said longitudinal axis and longitudinally concave towards said lateral centerline.

✓ 17. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 17 further comprising a second line of weakness concave towards said first line of weakness and concave towards said lateral centerline.

✓ 18. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 16 wherein said discrete sites are bilaterally staggered about said line of weakness.

19. A sanitary napkin according to Claim 18 further comprising discrete sites joining said core and said topsheet, said discrete sites being dispersed throughout a portion of said sanitary napkin without conforming to a line of weakness and having a lesser density than said discrete sites comprising said line of weakness.